

2007 Announcements

Medicaid Member Handbook is now available in English and Spanish!

Friday, Nov. 30

The Medicaid (*KyHealth Choices*) Member Handbook is now available on-line in English and Spanish. The handbook contains practical information about *KyHealth Choices* benefit plans, important telephone numbers and Web sites, prior authorization, how to get transportation services, choosing or changing your primary care provider (PCP), emergency room use, 24-hour nurse information line and other important topics useful for members, providers and case managers alike.

To view a copy of the handbook, click on one of the links listed below.

[KyHealth Choices Member Handbook - English](#)

[KYHealth Choices Manual para Miembros - en español](#)

To request a hard copy of the manual, contact the *KyHealth Choices* call center at (800) 635-2570 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (EST) Monday - Friday.

Important Update Regarding Tamper-resistant Prescription Pads

Tuesday, Oct. 2

The implementation of the requirement to use tamper-resistant blanks for all written Medicaid prescriptions has been delayed until April 1, 2008.

The House and Senate passed a bill late last week (HR 3668), and President Bush signed it on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007. The passage of this bill provides a reasonable timeframe for implementation, which will allow us to facilitate a smooth transition to meet the new requirements.

We will continue to work with CMS, the pharmacy community and the prescriber community to identify and answer any pertinent questions related to this implementation. We will send out further information to assist you in the new few months.

Federal Grant Will Allow Kentucky to Launch Half-Million Nursing Home Diversion Program

Thursday, Sept. 27

Kentucky Among Just 12 States Chosen by HHS

A grant from the federal Department for Health and Human Services (HHS) means nearly a half-million dollars will be available to provide more affordable choices to help keep people at home and out of nursing homes.

HHS has awarded Kentucky a more than \$330,000 grant, which the state will match with \$136,000 to launch the nursing home diversion program.

This funding comes on the heels of announcements earlier this year of two related projects that build on the *KyHealth Choices* Medicaid reform initiative, the \$49 million Money Follows the Person grant and the recently-approved federal waiver to provide more community alternatives.

A total of \$5.7 million was awarded to the 12 states to support state efforts to assist individuals in avoiding unnecessary nursing home placement, impoverishment and spend-down to Medicaid.

The Nursing Home Diversion Modernization Grants Program will help enable states to use funds in a more flexible manner so that a greater range of support options can be made available to individuals who are at high risk of nursing home placement. These grants will also enable states to give consumers a greater role in determining the types of services and the manner in which they receive them.

New Program Provides Further Flexibility to Serve Kentuckians under *KyHealth Choices*

Wednesday, Sept. 5

Federal Agency Approves Medicaid Waiver for Enhanced Community Services

CMS has approved a new Medicaid waiver that will increase Kentucky's ability to provide community services to individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities through *KyHealth Choices*.

The 1915C waiver, approved Aug. 29, will provide non-residential supports and services needed by individuals with mental retardation or developmental disabilities to enable them to live safely in the community, rather than in institutions. Individuals served by Optimum Choices - the *KyHealth Choices* plan designed to serve individuals with these diagnoses - will experience a broader range of options for supportive care in the community as a result of this new program.

The program will first serve the approximately 3,000 individuals on the Supports for Community Living waiting list. Those individuals may choose to stay on the waiting list for residential services while receiving these community supports. However, in the first year of the program, Medicaid may provide services for up to 10,000 people. In each of the following two years, the capacity to serve 2,000 more people will be added.

The new waiver program will provide home and community based services (personal care, homemaker services, respite, adult day health, attendant care and minor home adaptations), case management services, behavioral supports, community living supports, supported employment and adult day training. Individuals must meet the level of care criteria for placement in an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) and may receive up to 50 hours of services each week.

Fluoride Varnish Manual is now available

Effective July 1, DMS began reimbursing physicians to administer topical fluoride varnish to the teeth of Medicaid eligible clients through age 4. Refer to the physician's services [page](#) to view a copy of the manual.

New Member ID Cards

As of June, all Medicaid members began receiving new cards. For more information, click [here](#).